



OPPORTUNITY FACT PACK



Economic mobility is defined as a person's ability to improve their economic status over time. We can tell a lot about economic mobility in Charlotte-Mecklenburg with facts and stories. Charlotte has wealth, is growing quickly, has plenty of amenities and is a great place to live for many people. For others, poverty is inherited and breaking the cycle is difficult.

Key Facts (more at opportunitycharmec.org)

 <p>Economic mobility = a person's ability to improve their economic status</p>	<p>CHILDREN born into poverty in Charlotte-Mecklenburg are likely to stay in poverty FOR LIFE</p>	<p>30% of Hispanic and Black children are in poverty. Fewer than 5% of white children are in poverty</p>
 <p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg ranks last for economic mobility of 50 US communities</p>	<p>1 in 3 single moms and one in five children (48,000) are in poverty in Mecklenburg County</p>	<p>\$23/hour is what it takes for a family of 3 to afford basic needs like childcare, housing, food and transportation</p>

A Tale of Two Charlotte-Mecklenburgs



Sarah and Tonya live only two miles apart, but face very different futures

Sarah is in seventh grade. She and her family do the best they can, and her economic future is probably bright because key indicators of future economic mobility are already in her favor.

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|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Two-parent household | Accessible child care | Regular health care |
| Stable, safe home | High quality education | Nutritious diet |
| Upper household income | Good out of school options | Positive mentors |
| Reading at grade level by 3 rd grade | Active social networks | Safety nets |



Tonya is in seventh grade. She and her family do the best they can, but her economic future is probably shaky because life circumstances beyond her control are already known barriers to her future economic mobility.

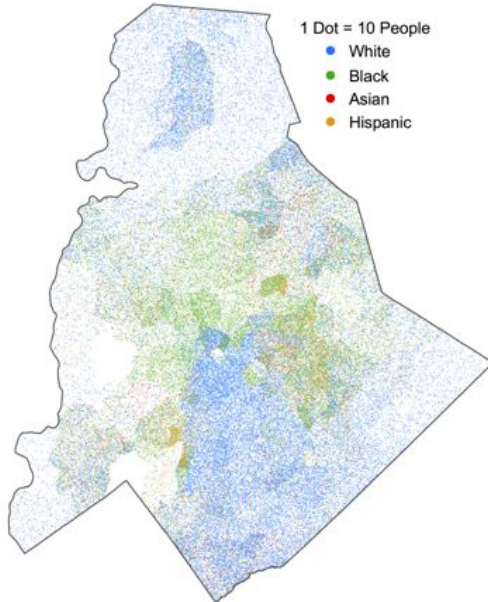
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| Single-parent household | Random child care | Spotty health care |
| Multiple homes, moves a lot | Low performing schools | Poor diet |
| Low or very low household income | No out of school programs | Few role models |
| Challenged to read by 3 rd grade | Weak social networks | Minimal safety nets |

Maps & Gaps

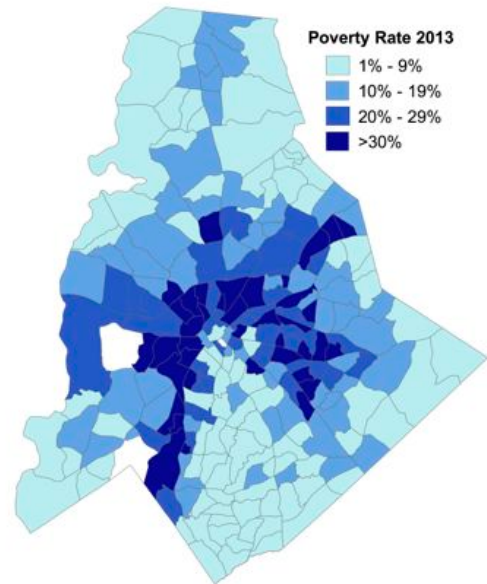
Five indicators are connected to economic mobility in a community:

segregation, income inequality, family structure, school quality and social capital.

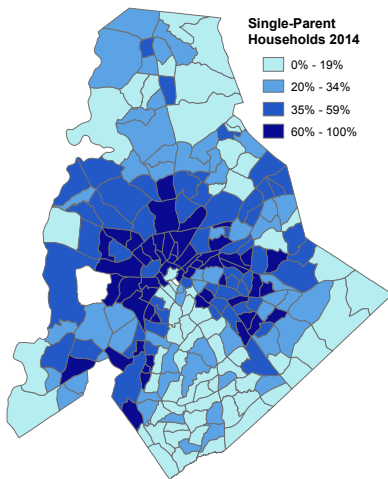
Mapping of these indicators in Charlotte-Mecklenburg shows that our community is segregated along all of the indicators, with most disparities concentrated in western and eastern neighborhoods of the County.



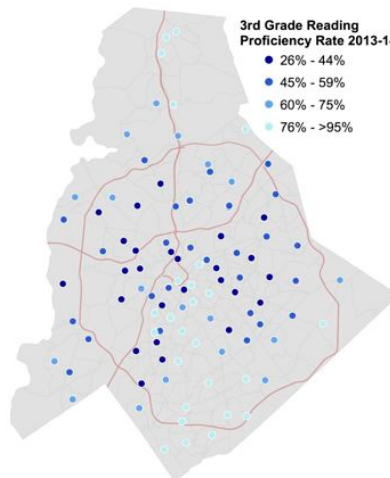
Our community is racially and ethnically segregated. High levels of segregation are connected to low levels of community economic mobility.



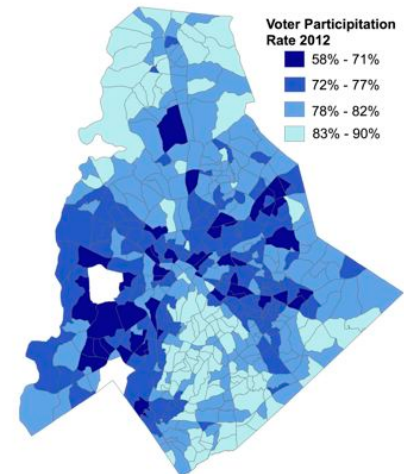
There are concentrated areas of poverty and segregation by income level in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, which are both indicators of low community economic mobility.



Even with hard work and the drive to succeed, single parent households face strong economic mobility challenges that can endure over generations.



Students who read on grade level by third grade are 96% more likely to graduate high school, a key economic mobility indicator. Currently, 38% of Mecklenburg's third graders are not reading on grade level.



Voter turnout is an indicator of community connectedness and social capital. Lower social capital is associated with lower economic mobility.